Name: Maurice K. Crawford

STAC Member Since: June 2011

Title: Assistant Professor

Department: Biology

Organization: Elizabeth City State University

Education: PhD Zoology, North Carolina State University (1996)
MS Ecology, Rutgers University (1984)
BS Biology, UMass at Dartmouth (1980)

Primary Focus Area: Fish ecology, fisheries, habitat conservation and restoration

Secondary Focus Area(s): Natural resource policy, estuarine ecology and climate change

Career Experiences: I received my BS in Biology from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth and began my career as a Fishery Biologist studying the age and growth of fishes at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Woods Hole Laboratory. I have a MS in Ecology from Rutgers University, where I studied the population genetics of weakfish and later investigated stream fish assemblages at the University of Georgia. I received my PhD from North Carolina State University where I examined the effects of habitat heterogeneity in seagrass beds on fish. Subsequently, I was awarded a science and diplomacy post-doctoral fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), where I assisted the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in developing and implementing their Climate Change Initiative. I returned to NOAA in 1999, where I worked with the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and later as the Science Coordinator of the National Estuarine Research Reserves.

I left NOAA in 2005 and traveled for seven months visiting the countries of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Afterwards I worked with Conservation International's Marine Management Area Science Program where I led the development of proposals between researchers and field staff to examine the effectiveness of marine protected areas. Currently I am an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at Elizabeth City State University. My research interests include fish ecology, estuarine habitat conservation/restoration; the dispersal and movement of organisms; and natural resource policy.